19th March 1929]

(*e*) No provision for the work has been included in the Civil Budget Estimates for 1929-30 as it is proposed that the expenditure during the first year should be met from the proceeds of the invested funds forming the endowment of the hospital.

Dr. (Mrs.) S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI :—"Sir, as the repairs are very urgent, may I request the hon. the Minister to visit the place and satisfy himself whether the need is not urgent?" 11-15 a.m.

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—"I shall visit the place and ascertain the urgency of the matter and then I shall, if necessary, expedite the most urgent matters."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—"May I know whether the hon. the Minister has visited any hospitals before?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—"I have visited a large number of hospitals; and I generally visit them before giving the final sanction."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—"If so, may I know why he has not chosen to visit this hospital?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—"Because the plans and estimates are not yet ready, and when they are ready I shall go and visit the place."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—"In view of the fact that the matter is an urgent one why did he not visit it beforehand?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—"The need is already known and how far the need can be satisfied is the subject under consideration and when the scheme is ready I shall visit the hospital."

Supply of clothing and bedding to the hospitals by the jails.

* 1785 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the jails are able to manufacture and supply in time all the clothing and bedding required for the hospitals; and

(*b*) if not, what arrangements are made for meeting this need?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) Generally the Jail Department is able to supply all the articles required. On the very rare occasions when it is not able to supply any article, it is purchased locally.

The Advisory Committees constituted for the District Headquarters hospitals.

* 1786 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many of the advisory committees constituted for the district headquarters hospitals are functioning properly; and

(*b*) whether the Government propose to extend this committee system to all hospitals under their management?

A.—(*a*) From a report on the working of the advisory committees received in August last, the Government observe that the committees generally have not taken as much interest in the administration of the hospitals as they expected. They have

asked the Surgeon-General to prepare a memorandum on the composition and functions of these committees for circulation to members with a request that they should take an active interest in the administration of the hospitals.

(*b*) The Government propose to extend the system to the taluk headquarter hospitals recently provincialized.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—" May I know why these advisory committees are not taking part in the administration of the hospitals ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" So far as I am aware, it is due to the indifference of some members who constitute the committees."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—" May I know whether the Government propose to change the composition and revise the functions of these committees ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" If any suggestions are given in that direction, they will be considered."

UNSTARRED QUESTION

Labour

Strike in the Chittivalasa Jute Mills.

1787 *Q.*—Mr. P. C. VENKATAPATI RAJU : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware that workers numbering about 3,700 have struck work since 16th January last in the Chittivalasa Jute Mills Company, Ltd., Chittivalasa ;

(*b*) what the reasons for the strike are ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the police of Vizagapatam are interfering with the free movements of the strikers and are intimidating them to resume work ;

(*d*) whether the Government have received any communication on behalf of the strikers ; and

(*e*) if so, what steps the Government have taken in the matter ?

A.—A strike occurred in the Jute Mills at Chittivalasa on 17th January 1929 in which about 2,000 men were involved. The main cause of the trouble appears to have been the refusal of the management to give the workmen a bonus. The strike ended on 4th March 1929 and the workmen resumed work on 5th March 1929. A representation on behalf of the strikers was received from the Chittivalasa Labour Union but no complaint was made about police interference. Under instructions from Government the Commissioner of Labour went to Vizagapatam to look into the matter.